

April 17, 2008

Transportation chapter added to open house

By Jim Ferolie
Verona Press editor

Should Main Street and East Verona Avenue get a roundabout some day? Does Verona need to invest in better bus service? What roads should the city plan to take pressure off County Highway M?

With the Transportation chapter of the city's comprehensive plan in the works, those questions and others will be a key point of discussion next week at the Comprehensive Planning Committee's open house, which begins at 7 p.m. Monday at the Verona Senior Center.

The informal event will have committee members at four tables — Housing, Economic Development, Community Facilities and Transportation — as the committee seeks out as much public input as possible as it attempts to define goals and priorities for the future of Verona.

It has already held discussions on the Housing, Issues and Opportunities and Economic development chapters, including a review of the March 3 retail community forum, in which about 200 people expressed their opinions on big box stores and other developments.

One of the primary items of discussion in the Transportation chapter will be what to do with the congested intersection of Main Street and Verona Avenue. Among the possible remedies are adding extra lanes, turning it into a roundabout and keeping it as-is.

Other aspects of the transportation will include pedestrian facilities, bike paths and facilities, public transportation and senior "para-transit." The other tables will discuss such topics as what sort of

If you go

What: Open house for the city's comprehensive plan

When: 7 p.m. April 21

Where: Verona Senior Center, 108 Paoli St.

Info: City planning director Bruce Sylvester, 848-9941

mix of housing (single family vs. multifamily) the city should aim for, what sort of growth to plan for, what sort of commercial development the city should attempt to bring in, whether to spend money promoting that development and what sort of parks, pools, sports fields or other community facilities the city needs.

Other chapters that will be discussed at future meetings include Utilities and Community Facilities; Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources; Land Use, Intergovernmental Cooperation and Implementation.

Next week's open house is an open forum for any of these topics, however. Committee members and city planning director Bruce Sylvester will be available to take comments and discuss any topic related to the future of the community.

The chapters that have already been distributed to the committee and are available to the public are Housing and Economic Development. Both are available on the city's Web site, www.ci.verona.wi.us, under the "Comprehensive Planning Info" link.

The forum will follow the committee's regular meeting, which will begin at 6 p.m. at the Senior Center.



The new Holiday Inn Express on West Verona Avenue is looking for 25-30 employees. The hotel will open for business May 30.

Hiring begins for new

By Seth Jovaag
Unified Newspaper Group

With guests already booked for the May 30 opening of the 109-room Holiday Inn Express and Suites on West Verona Avenue, the hotel's management team is hoping to fill out its staff of 25 to 30 employees at a local job fair next week.

The hotel's management company, Verona-based Great Lakes Management Group, is hosting the fair at the Verona Public Library from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday and from 4-8 p.m. Thursday.

General manager, Charlie Eggen, said the hotel is hiring part-time and full-time staff to fill everything from maintenance and housekeeping duties to management positions and drivers for the shuttle van service.

"We feel confident that

we're going to have people ready to go" for the opening, said Eggen, who recently left a job at the Hampton Inn in west Madison to manage the new Holiday Inn.

Construction of the \$8 million hotel is nearly 90 percent complete, said Lee Fischl, who will co-own the hotel with John Forseth through their business group, Verona Hotel LLC. His Verona-based company, Fischl Construction, is the general contractor on the project. Fischl also built Verona's public library and is working on the new \$7.5 million City Hall and police station.

The company began work Oct. 1 at the 2.15-acre site and started framing the three-story hotel last December, Fischl said. Despite the record-setting snowfall this winter, he expects to hit the May 30 opening day target.

"Because of the dedication and commitments of the subcontractors, we have made excellent progress," Fischl said in an e-mail last week.

Job

What: Job for Holiday Inn Express

When: 8 a.m. April 23 and 4 p.m. April 24

Where: Verona Public Library, 500 S. Main St.

Info: 497-4511
charlie@gimgl.com

pool and hot-tub, large fitness center, fall in the lobby, Badger Room, square-foot gath for meetings or events that can accommodate 100 people, Eggen said.

All 109 rooms are non-smoking, and be wireless Internet throughout the hotel. Each room will have a LCD flat panel TV, said Kim Othman, director of sales.

Standard room features king-sized or twin queen-sized beds. Other options will include whirlpool

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